CTAA
Connecticut Alternate Assessment
(Developed with NCSC)

Smarter Balanced
Assessment Consortium

CMT/CAPT
SCIENCE

STUDENT ASSESSMENT NEWS	Connecticut State Department Of Education
[Archived Student Assessment News](#)	CTStudentAssessment@ct.gov
February 13, 2015	860-713-6860

Smarter Balanced Test Administration Manual (TAM) and Test Coordinator Manual (TCM)

The Smarter Balanced TCM will be posted early next week on the [CSDE Smarter Balanced Portal](#). The Smarter Balanced TAM will be posted soon after. A notice about the posting will be provided in the *Student Assessment News*. Please ensure that all test coordinators, test administrators, and teachers who have test administration responsibilities are provided with the link to the [CSDE Smarter Balanced Portal](#).

Districts will be provided with paper copies of the TCM and TAM. Paper copies will be boxed by school and will include one TCM per school and one TAM for every 30 students. Districts will also receive a district overage box. These materials will be sent to the address in the [MI Web Portal](#) under the CMT DCV section for "shipping of test materials". If this address is not appropriate for delivery of the manuals, please call the Student Assessment Office at 860-713-6860, and request to speak to Suzanne Alicea.

TIDE and Digital Library Login Information

The sign-on page for TIDE and the Digital Library are located at different sites (URLs).

- TIDE: https://neac.sso.airast.org
- Digital Library: https://www.SmarterBalancedLibrary.org

As user accounts are created in TIDE, staff members will receive an e-mail with a link to TIDE (different than the Digital Library), a username (work e-mail address), and a temporary password. Once users log into TIDE, users will need to reset their password. If users wish, they may set their TIDE password to be the same as their Digital Library password. However, please note that the sites are different, and it is not possible to toggle between the software applications this year. Next year there will be a single sign-on screen which will allow users to access both the TIDE applications and the Digital Library.

Smarter Balanced **DIGITAL LIBRARY**

Featured Assessment Literacy Module

[Clarifying Intended Learning in the Formative Assessment Process: Grades 3-5](#)

Summary: How does sharing and co-constructing learning goals and success criteria with upper elementary school students affect their learning? In this module, educators learn about the purpose of the clarifying intended learning attribute of the Formative Assessment Process, how it supports teaching and learning with upper elementary school students, and developmentally appropriate ways to engage students in understanding the learning goals and success criteria. The module includes a short video that shows a Connecticut fourth grade teacher partnering with her students to clarify the learning goals and success criteria. Then educators have an opportunity to reflect on what they learned in the module and plan ways to clarify intended learning in partnership with upper elementary school students.

Clarifying Intended Learning in the Formative Assessment Process: Grades 3–5

How does sharing and co-constructing learning goals and success criteria with upper elementary school students affect their learning? In...

Subjects: Not Subject Specific

Grades: 3 - Third Grade, 4 - Fourth Grade, 5 - Fifth Grade

Media Types: Video, Image, Document, Interactive, Presentation, Audio

Log into the [Smarter Balanced Digital Library](#) to access this Assessment Literacy Module that features a Connecticut teacher. This module is part of a comprehensive package of four modules, one featuring each formative assessment attribute.

Teaching Channel features the Smarter Balanced Digital Library

"[Formative Assessment Practices to Support Student Learning](#)" includes links to videos featuring two Connecticut teachers demonstrating each attribute of the Formative Assessment Process.

Audio Component of the Embedded Translations (Glossaries)

The Smarter Balanced Practice Tests were updated to include the audio component of the Designated Support, Translations (Glossaries), for the mathematics test. There were over 600,000 audio files created for the operational test's Translations (Glossaries) to support 10 languages plus several dialects. The majority of terms have associated audio files. However, there are some items that do not have audio support included. This is due to the extraordinary number of audio files involved.

Providing the audio component on the Practice Test is designed to serve two key purposes:
- Provide a means for students and teachers to quickly become familiar with the new audio component of the Translations (Glossaries) Designated Support.
- Provide a means for students and teachers to interact with this new component of the Designated Support in a manner similar to the Operational Test in which some terms will have both audio and text and some terms will have text only.

A supplemental document illustrating how to use the Translations (Glossaries), Instructions for Using Embedded Glossaries, is available on the Support for Under-represented Students page of the Smarter Balanced Web site.

Smarter Balanced Test Blueprints

Test blueprints for the Interim Assessment Blocks (IAB) are posted on the Interim Assessments page of the Smarter Balanced Web site. Test blueprints for the Interim Comprehensive Assessments (ICA) will be released soon.

Updated test blueprints for the Summative Assessments will be posted to the Smarter Balanced Assessments page of the Smarter Balanced Web site in the near future. Minor changes were made to the number of test items presented to each student.

District Technology Upgrades to Support the Transition to the New Standards Proposal Review

The CSDE is still seeking grant reviewers for the District Technology Upgrades to Support Transition to the New Standards Request for Proposal. The review will occur on March 3 and 4, 2015. If interested, see the Technology Grant Review Team Invitation for more information.

Smarter Balanced Webinars

District staff is invited to attend one or more of the following webinar training sessions to prepare for the Smarter Balanced test administration. These will be recorded and posted on the Connecticut Portal once completed.

Once registered for a session, attendees will receive a confirmation e-mail. The e-mail will include a link to the WebEx meeting and a toll-free phone number to use for the session. Each one hour session will include time for questions and answers.

Technology Requirements for Online Testing

This webinar is intended for Technology Coordinators. It will provide an overview of the technology requirements needed on all computers and devices used for online testing, information on secure browser installation, and voice packs for text-to-speech.

Date and Time	Registration Link
Thursday, February 19, 2015 4:00 p.m.	https://air-license.webex.com/air-license/j.php?RGID=r31012b6de97b62b167e614c6f3ecc3e5

TIDE and How to Start/Monitor Online Testing and Test Settings

This webinar is intended for District Administrators, District Test Coordinators, and School Coordinators. It will provide an overview of how to navigate the following systems: Test Information Distribution Engine (TIDE), Test Delivery System (TDS), and Teacher Hand Scoring System (THSS). Participants will learn how to set student settings in TIDE, start and monitor a test session using the TA Interface, and how to score specific item responses via THSS (used exclusively for the Interim assessments).

STUDENT ASSESSMENT NEWS

February 13, 2015

Date and Time	Registration Link
Thursday, February 19, 2015 **2:00 p.m.**	https://air-license.webex.com/air-license/j.php?RGID=rb31f5e11cff52f82ac3a35664738323f

How to Use the Online Reporting System

This webinar is intended for District Administrators, District Test Coordinators, and School Coordinators. It will provide an overview of how to navigate the Online Reporting System (ORS), including information on participation reports, score reports, and summary statistics.

Date and Time	Registration Link
Thursday, March 5, 2015 **2:00 p.m.**	https://air-license.webex.com/air-license/j.php?RGID=r2fc801d3b7a4ff60be1275cc774e6bbe
Thursday, March 5, 2015 **4:00 p.m.**	https://air-license.webex.com/air-license/j.php?RGID=rfeacd4bf74e07f5478dddfd633f2ee46

Confirmation e-mails that contain all the meeting information should be saved to access webinars. Attendees do not have to sign up for a Cisco WebEx account to join this session, but it is recommended running the test meeting application to ensure users have the appropriate plug-ins installed prior to attending the webinar session (http://www.webex.com/test-meeting.html).

Contact Emilia Birdsall (ebirdsall@air.org) or Elizabeth Mortimer (emortimer@air.org) with questions.

Parent/Guardian Informational Letter

reminder

An informational letter template to inform parents/guardians about the Smarter Balanced assessments has been posted for district use.

Special Populations

reminder

The deadline to enter designated supports and accommodations for students with an Individualized Education Program (IEP), Section 504 plan or who are identified as English Learners (ELs) in the Accommodations Data Entry Web site is **Friday, February 13, 2015**. Information entered by this date will be automatically transferred to TIDE. All information entered in the Accommodations Data Entry Web site by February 13 will appear in TIDE by **Monday, February 23, 2015.** In addition, information for students being administered the CMT/CAPT Science and the CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist Science will be transferred to the Measurement Incorporated (MI) portal.

- Presently, TIDE shows **NO** records that indicate any designated supports or accommodations for students with IEPs, Section 504 plans or English Learners in Test Settings . This information will appear in TIDE for your confirmation after **Monday, February 23, 2015.**
- The Accommodations Data Entry Web site remains open throughout the testing window. If designated supports and accommodations for students with IEPs, Section 504 plans or who are ELs need to be entered or modified after **Friday, February 13, 2015**, then the information will need to be entered in **both** the Accommodation Data Entry Web site and in TIDE. Any Skills Checklist information may also need to be entered in the MI portal.
- Students participating in the Connecticut Alternate Assessment (CTAA) may appear in TIDE. These records do not need to be adjusted at this time.
- The CSDE will **NOT** transfer any Non-Embedded designated supports or accommodations into TIDE. This information is only collected in the Accommodations Data Entry Web site.
- All general education students who require designated supports **MUST** be entered directly in TIDE.
- Students requiring a special accommodation must receive permission from the CSDE through the PETITION FOR APPROVAL OF SPECIAL DOCUMENTED ACCOMMODATIONS for Smarter Balanced and CMT/CAPT Science. Contact Joe Amenta at 860-713-6855 or Janet Stuck at 860-713-6837 for information. Special accommodations include:
  - Scribe;
  - Print on demand;

- o Large print for Smarter Balanced;
- o Read aloud for the reading passages Grades 6-8 & 11; and
- o Human Signer Accommodation for Deaf, Hard of Hearing or Deaf-Blind.
- Requests for consideration of an Emergency Medical Exemption should be initiated by the District Test Coordinator as needed during the appropriate test administration window for Smarter Balanced or CMT CAPT Science. See Appendix A of the Assessment Guidelines.

Technology Requirements for the CTAA/ NCSC can be viewed in the Workstation and Bandwidth Technology Requirements Spring 2015.

Student Assessment Web site
Web site links needed to administer the CMT/CAPT Science, Smarter Balanced assessments and Connecticut Alternate Assessment (CTAA) are consolidated on one page of the CSDE Student Assessment Web site.

District Test Coordinator TIDE Access
District Test Coordinators should have received an e-mail last week from "NEAC-DoNotReply@airast.org" regarding their TIDE user account as a District Administrator (DA). Once District Test Coordinators have successfully logged into TIDE, they can create and manage district- and school-level users. Refer to page 16 of the TIDE User Guide for a description of user access to tasks in TIDE.

The Teacher (TE) role is a new role that was not available during the 2014 Field Test. The TE role allows users to view student results when they are available for students. This role may also be assigned to teachers who do not administer the test, but will need access to student results. The School Coordinator (SC), District Coordinator (DC), or Teacher (TE) may create rosters for teachers to view their students' reports. Information about creating rosters is available in the TIDE User Guide.

The Test Administrator (TA) role does not allow for access to student reports and is designed for test administrators such as technology staff, who administer tests, but should not have access to student results.

All accounts from last year's Field Test are no longer active. Subsidiary TIDE accounts must be created for test administration. The TIDE system can be accessed from the CSDE Smarter Balanced Assessment Portal. District Administrators who wish to create additional District Administrators, or who did not receive this initial e-mail should contact the AIR Connecticut Help Desk at 844-202-7583 or cthelpdesk@air.org.

NOTE: Student Designated Supports and Accommodations will be uploaded to TIDE from the CSDE Accommodations Collections Web site after February 13, 2015.

Student Assessment Participation
By federal and state law, universal student assessment is required in ELA and Mathematics in Grades 3-8 and once in high school annually. Also, by federal and state law an assessment is required in science once in each school level (elementary, middle, and high school). In Connecticut, students participate in the Smarter Balanced assessments in ELA/literacy and mathematics. These assessments are given in Grades 3 - 8 and 11. In science, students participate in the Science CMT in Grades 5 and 8 and the Science CAPT in Grade 10. Some students with disabilities participate in the Connecticut Alternate Assessment and the CMT Science Skills Checklist or CAPT Science Skills Checklist. Both the CSDE and each LEA are legally responsible to administer these assessments to all students.